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Rep. John Adler, D-N.J., is asking the White House to continue to fund ongoing beach replenishment projects on Long Beach Island, despite rumors that the money may be removed from the recently approved stimulus package.

Adler sent a letter to Peter Orszag, director of the White House Office of Management and Budget, expressing his concerns about the future funding of the project through the stimulus package.

"I am very concerned about recent reports from the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association that the White House Office of Management and Budget will exclude beach nourishment projects from being funded under the recovery package, which contained \$4.6 billion for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," Adler wrote in his letter. "The federal government cannot abandon the people of shore communities and the economic value shore businesses generate."

The association stated in a release Wednesday that it has learned that OMB has pulled funding for every beach replenishment project from the stimulus list prepared by the corps.

"ASBPA is outraged by this decision," the release states. "The lessons of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike and others have been quickly forgotten by OMB or never learned."

Ed Voigt, a spokesman for the corps, said the corps has yet to receive a list of projects that are included in the stimulus package. Despite the concern over the stimulus funding, current projects are still moving forward, Voigt said.

"All of the work that contracts have been issued for is still moving forward. . . . That includes the munitions cleanup (in Surf City)," Voigt said. "Funding for the next phase of the beach project in Harvey Cedars is funded through the omnibus bill fiscal year '09, so those funds are safe."

The beach project includes increasing the size of Long Beach Island beaches as well as of dunes. The first part of the project was completed in Surf City. The corps has scheduled Harvey Cedars as the next municipality to be part of the project. The corps was scheduled to award the contract for the work, but decided to delay it because the borough did not have all of the needed easements for the project.

"On behalf of my constituents in Ocean County, I urge you to maintain funding for beach nourishment projects," Adler stated in the letter to Orszag. "The money included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is necessary to conduct beach erosion studies, build groins and jetties to protect beaches from surf, storm surge and tidal currents, and long-term nourishment efforts like pumping tons of dredged sand back onto eroded beaches.

"My district relies on federal funds to protect homes and businesses, keep the beaches safe for our families and repair shorelines that suffered through a long winter," Adler added in the letter.